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The Boeing Company*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 PROPERTY AND  
BUSINESS LOSS LITIGATION

WORLD TRADE CENTER PROPERTIES LLC,  
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, AND 4 WORLD  
TRADE COMPANY, LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED AIRLINES, INC., UAL CORPORATION,  
AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC., AMR  
CORPORATION, MASSACHUSETTS PORT  
AUTHORITY, THE BOEING COMPANY, DELTA  
AIR LINES, INC., DELTA EXPRESS, INC.,  
MIDWAY AIRLINES CORPORATION,  
HUNTLEIGH USA CORPORATION, ICTS  
INTERNATIONAL, N.V., GLOBE AVIATION  
SERVICES CORPORATION, BURNS  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES  
CORPORATION, BURN INTERNATIONAL  
SERVICES CORPORATION, PINKERTON'S INC.,  
and SECURITAS AB,

Defendants.

No. 21 MC 101 (AKH)

Civ. Action No. 3719

**DEFENDANT THE BOEING  
COMPANY'S ANSWER TO THE  
WTCP PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT**

Defendant The Boeing Company (“Boeing”) submits the following answer to the complaint dated April 17, 2008 (the “Complaint”) filed by World Trade Center Properties LLC, 2 World Trade Center LLC, and 4 World Trade Center LLC (collectively referred to as the “WTCP Plaintiffs”):

Boeing objects to the unnumbered opening paragraphs of the Complaint, which improperly characterize the Complaint as being in compliance with the Court’s March 18, 2008 Order permitting WTCP Plaintiffs to re-cast their cross-claims, pending in the 21 MC 97 litigation, as direct claims in the 21 MC 101 litigation under a new civil action number. The present Complaint fails to comply with that Order because it does not “solely re-cast” WTCP Plaintiffs’ cross-claims herein as the Court’s Order directs.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. To the extent that the allegations contained in paragraph 1 are legal conclusions, no answer is required and none is given. Boeing admits that the Two World Trade Center and Four World Trade Center buildings were damaged on September 11, 2001. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants or involve other parties, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing, Boeing denies them.

2. To the extent that the allegations contained in paragraphs 2 through 4 are legal conclusions, no answer is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing, Boeing denies them. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them.

3. Answering the allegations contained in paragraph 5, Boeing admits “that section 408(a)(1) of the Air Transportation Safety and system Stabilization Act of 2001, Pub. L. No.

107-42, 115 Stat. 230 (2001), as amended on November 19, 2001 and January 23, 2002, see Pub. L. No. 107-71, 115 Stat. 631 (2001) and Pub. L. No. 107-134, 115 Stat. 2435 (2002) (codified at 49 U.S.C. § 40101) (the "Act") limits the aggregate liability of each defendant for damages to 'an amount not greater than the limits of liability insurance' that defendant maintained on September 11." To the extent that the remaining allegations in paragraph 5 are legal conclusions, no answer is required and none is given. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing, Boeing denies them.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. The allegations contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 are legal conclusions to which no answer is required and none is given.

#### **PARTIES**

##### **The WTCP Plaintiffs**

5. Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraphs 8 through 10, and therefore denies same.

##### **Defendants**

6. The allegations contained in paragraphs 11 through 15 are directed at other defendants and no response is required from Boeing. If a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them.

7. Boeing admits the allegations contained in paragraph 16.

8. The allegations contained in paragraphs 17 through 27 are directed at other defendants and no response is required from Boeing. If a response is required, Boeing is without

knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them.

**CLAIM ONE FOR NEGLIGENCE AGAINST  
ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT BOEING**

9. Answering paragraph 28, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 27 as though fully set forth herein.

10. To the extent the allegations contained in paragraphs 28 through 38 are directed at other defendants and/or are legal conclusions, no response is required from Boeing. If a response is required, Boeing admits that United Air Lines Flight 175 departed from Logan Airport on September 11, 2001, and was hijacked and crashed into Two World Trade Center. For any remaining allegations, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed against Boeing, Boeing denies them.

**CLAIM TWO FOR NEGLIGENCE SELECTION  
AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT BOEING  
AND THE SECURITY COMPANY DEFENDANTS**

11. Answering paragraph 39, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 as though fully set forth herein.

12. To the extent the allegations contained in paragraphs 40 through 44 are directed at other defendants and/or are legal conclusions, no response is required from Boeing. If a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations and therefore denies them.

**CLAIM THREE BASED ON *RES IPSA LOQUITUR*  
AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT BOEING**

13. Answering paragraph 45, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 44 as though fully set forth herein.

14. The allegations contained in paragraph 46 through 48 are directed at other defendants and/or are legal conclusions and no response is required from Boeing. If a response

is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them.

**CLAIM FOUR BASED ON STRICT LIABILITY  
AGAINST BOEING, UNITED AND UAL**

15. Answering paragraph 49, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 48 as though fully set forth herein.

16. Answering paragraph 50, Boeing admits that it manufactured the aircraft operated on September 11, 2001 as United Air Lines Flight 175 (the "subject aircraft") except for those components, parts, and systems of the subject aircraft manufactured by others, and the parts that were subsequently removed, installed, exchanged, altered, modified, retrofitted, overhauled, or manufactured by others. To the extent that the remaining allegations are conclusions of law, no response is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them.

17. Answering paragraph 51, Boeing admits that it manufactured the subject aircraft according to design specifications, except for those components, parts, and systems of the subject aircraft manufactured by others, and the parts that were subsequently removed, installed, exchanged, altered, modified, retrofitted, overhauled, or manufactured by others. To the extent that the remaining allegations are conclusions of law, no response is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required from Boeing, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them.

18. To the extent that the allegations contained in paragraphs 52 through 54 are conclusions of law, no response is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants or involve other parties, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required from Boeing, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them.

**CLAIM FIVE FOR NEGLIGENCE DESIGN AND/OR  
MANUFACTURE AGAINST ALL BOEING, UNITED AND UAL**

19. Answering paragraph 55, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 54 as though fully set forth herein.

20. Answering paragraph 56, Boeing admits that it is in the business of designing and manufacturing transport category aircraft and that it manufactured the subject aircraft according to design specifications, except for those components, parts, and systems of the subject aircraft manufactured by others, and the parts that were subsequently removed, installed, exchanged, altered, modified, retrofitted, overhauled, or manufactured by others. To the extent that the remaining allegations are conclusions of law, no response is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent that the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them.

21. To the extent that the allegations contained in paragraphs 57 through 60 are conclusions of law, no response is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants or involve other parties, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required from Boeing, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the

extent that the remaining allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them.

**CLAIM SIX FOR CONTRIBUTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

22. Answering paragraph 61, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 60 as though fully set forth herein.

23. The allegations contained in paragraph 62 are conclusions of law, and no response is required and none is given. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants or involve other parties, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required from Boeing, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them. To the extent that any allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them.

**CLAIM SEVEN FOR INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

24. Answering paragraph 63, Boeing herein incorporates by references its answers to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 62 as though fully set forth herein.

25. The allegations contained in paragraph 64 are conclusions of law, and no response is required and none is given. To the extent that any allegations are directed at Boeing and a response is required, Boeing denies them. To the extent the remaining allegations are directed at other defendants or involve other parties, no response is required from Boeing or, if a response is required from Boeing, Boeing is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies them.

**ALL COUNTS**

26. Any allegation in the Complaint not expressly responded to above is denied.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

By way of further answer to the Complaint, Boeing asserts the following affirmative defenses:

**FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

27. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

**SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

28. Public Law 107-42, "The Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation and Transportation Security Act," provides an exclusive federal cause of action for all claims arising from the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. To the extent the Complaint asserts causes of action other than that provided for by this legislation, those causes of action must be dismissed as a matter of law.

**THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

29. WTCP Plaintiffs' alleged damages were caused by the unforeseeable, intervening, and/or superseding acts of third parties, for which Boeing is not responsible.

**FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

30. The Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (Public Law 5-726, 72 Stat. 731, formerly codified as 49 U.S.C. § 1301, et seq. now re-codified and incorporated into 49 U.S.C. § 40101 et seq.), and the federal regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, establish the uniform and exclusive standards that airplane manufacturers must follow for aviation safety and security, and these federal standards preempt state law design standards which plaintiffs allege that Boeing violated. Boeing complied with these federal standards, and the subject airplanes were certified as airworthy by the Federal Aviation Administration, thus precluding a finding of liability against Boeing.

**FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

31. Boeing hereby places at issue the negligence, fault and responsibility of all persons and entities, including but not limited to the WTCP Plaintiffs and other plaintiffs in the 21 MC 101 action, who may have contributed in any degree to the injuries, damages and/or losses alleged to have been sustained by plaintiffs, in proportion to each person's degree of

negligence, fault or responsibility. Judgment, if any, against Boeing should be reduced to an amount that represents its proportionate share of plaintiffs' total damages, if any.

#### **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

32. WTCP Plaintiffs' recovery must be diminished, in whole or in part, as a result of their own negligence and/or other culpable conduct. *See N.Y.C.P.L.R. § 1411.*

#### **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

33. To the extent that WTCP Plaintiffs' claims are based on common law or statutory law of the individual states requiring airplane manufacturers to design airplanes to standards different from or inconsistent with the obligations imposed by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (Public Law 5-726, 72 Stat. 731, formerly codified as 49 U.S.C. § 1301 et seq. and now re-codified and incorporated as 49 U.S.C. § 40101 et seq.) and the federal regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, they are barred by Public Law 107-42, "The Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation and Transportation Security Act."

#### **EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

34. Recovery by WTCP Plaintiffs, if any, should be reduced by any collateral source payment that has been or will be paid to plaintiffs in accordance with the applicable state law as may be derived by this Court from New York law, including its choice of law principles.

#### **NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

35. Boeing's liability, if any, must be limited to its proportionate share in accordance with the applicable state law as may be derived by this Court from New York law, including its choice of law principles.

#### **TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

36. If WTCP Plaintiffs release or enter into a covenant not to sue or enforce a judgment with any other persons claimed to be liable for WTCP Plaintiffs' damages, the amount

recoverable against Boeing must be reduced in accordance with the applicable law as may be derived by this Court from New York law, including its choice of law principles.

**ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

37. WTCP Plaintiffs have failed to mitigate their damages.

**TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

38. Pursuant to Public Law 107-42, "The Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act," as amended by Public Law 107-71, "The Aviation and Transportation Security Act," the amount of damages recoverable from Boeing shall not be in an amount greater than the limits of liability insurance coverage maintained by Boeing.

**THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

39. WTCP Plaintiffs have failed to join all necessary and indispensable parties.

**FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

40. Damages, compensatory and punitive, may be barred or limited by applicable state law as may be derived by this Court from New York law, including its choice of law principles.

**FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

41. WTCP Plaintiffs' claims against Boeing may be barred by the anti-subrogation rule.

**SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

42. WTCP Plaintiffs' claims may be barred by applicable statutes of limitations.

**SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

43. The damages alleged in the Complaint occurred, in whole or in part, as a result of the intentional, knowing, or negligent misuse of the subject airplanes.

**EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

44. To the extent the Complaint alleges claims based on an alleged breach of warranty, such claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the absence of privity between WTCP Plaintiffs and Boeing and/or by lack of proper notice to Boeing.

**NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

45. To the extent the Complaint alleges claims based on an alleged breach of warranty, such claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Boeing did not make any warranties to WTCP Plaintiffs with respect to the subject airplanes or any of their component parts.

**TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

46. To the extent the Complaint alleges claims based on an alleged breach of warranty, such claims are barred, in whole or in part, because WTCP Plaintiffs are not third-party beneficiaries of any warranties that Boeing may have made.

**TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

47. To the extent the Complaint alleges claims based on an alleged breach of warranty, plaintiffs' right to recovery, if any, are limited to or precluded by the warranty provisions in Boeing's contract of sale for the product.

**TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

48. If WTCP Plaintiffs were damaged by products originally sold by Boeing, that product was substantially altered or misused by person and/or entities other than Boeing and over whom Boeing had no control or right of control, without Boeing's knowledge, consent or advice, following the date of initial manufacture and the sale of such products, and such alteration or misuse proximately caused the events in the Complaint and the resulting damages.

**TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

49. The design of the subject airplanes, and each component thereof that was installed at the time of delivery, was consistent with the "state of the art" at the time of their design and manufacture.

**TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

50. WTCP Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the state secrets doctrine.

**TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

51. WTCP Plaintiffs' claims must be dismissed to the extent that relevant evidence required by Boeing to mount its defense is prohibited from disclosure by 14 CFR § 1520 *et seq.* as Sensitive Security Information.

**TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

52. WTCP Plaintiffs' alleged damages were caused by an act of war.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

53. WTCP Plaintiffs' alleged damages were remote and not a reasonably foreseeable consequence of any alleged conduct by Boeing; therefore, Boeing owed no duty to plaintiffs as a matter of law and cannot be held liable for their alleged damages.

**TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

54. The Complaint must be dismissed because the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this case because it presents a non-justiciable political question.

**TWENTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

55. WTCP Plaintiffs are barred from recovery of alleged damages in respect of business interruption or other economic loss unaccompanied by, or not caused by, physical property damage.

**THIRTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

56. WTCP Plaintiffs are barred from recovery in respect of alleged damage to property or improvements incurred as a result of debris, fire, soot, smoke or water, to the extent the allegedly damaged property or improvements were not adjacent to property or improvements struck by aircraft on September 11, 2001.

**THIRTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

57. To the extent WTCP Plaintiffs' alleged damages were caused or contributed to by the acts or omissions of public authorities or others acting under color of state law, Boeing cannot be held liable for WTCP Plaintiffs' alleged damages.

**THIRTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

58. WTCP Plaintiffs are barred from recovery of alleged damages in excess of the lesser of (a) the cost of restoring the alleged damaged or destroyed property to its original condition, or (b) the diminution in market value caused by Boeing's and/or any other defendant's alleged negligence.

**THIRTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

59. WTCP Plaintiffs' Complaint should be dismissed to the extent that it is based upon alleged rights of subrogation that are invalid or have been waived under applicable law.

**THIRTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

60. WTCP Plaintiffs are barred from recovery of alleged damages to the extent those damages are inflated, duplicative or otherwise improper.

**THIRTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

61. WTCP Plaintiffs' alleged damages were not proximately caused by any negligence or culpable conduct on the part of Boeing, their agents, or employees.

**THIRTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

62. WTCP Plaintiffs may lack capacity and/or standing to maintain this action.

Boeing hereby reserves the right to add affirmative defenses as necessary based on information obtained during investigation or discovery. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to impose upon Boeing any burden of proof not imposed by applicable substantive law.

WHEREFORE, Boeing demands judgment dismissing the Complaint in its entirety or, alternatively, judgment limiting its liability pursuant to the foregoing, together with costs and disbursements and such other and further relief in its favor which this Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: May 12, 2008.

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Eric S. Lent, certify that on May 12, 2008, a copy of DEFENDANT THE BOEING COMPANY'S ANSWER TO THE WTCP PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT was served upon the below-listed parties by electronic mail, with a copy by U.S. mail, postage pre-paid, in accordance with the March 2005 Order Creating Property Damage Track and Reorganizing Committees in 21 MC 97 and 21 MC 101:

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By: 

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